



# Illinois Private Sector Alliance Project

## An Enterprise Beyond the Resources of Any One Member

### Discussion

Illinois has taken bold and uncharted steps to formalize partnerships and processes that will fundamentally transform the management/sharing of information vital to the prevention and notification of and response to critical incidents.

This brief chronicles these crucial steps taken by stakeholders to attain Illinois' leadership role in reshaping information sharing through constructing progressive and nontraditional partnerships in a changing world.

### Necessity to Adapt

Information sharing strategies employed by public safety, specifically law enforcement, during the Cold War era have changed. Gleaned information was in disparate silos and closely guarded, not communal. Passage of time and shattering events in this country changed the information sharing terrain. These communities are altering their information compliance from "need-to-know/right-to-know" to "responsibility to inform" policy. Public safety/law enforcement has broadened their span of associations. Links and partnerships have and are being established with private sector security, operations and emergency

preparedness personnel for information and resource sharing from preventative, preparedness, and response/recovery perspectives. These associations now serve as key channels to report, inquiry, direct and share "suspicious activity reporting", "requests for information" and "for your information inquiries/notifications".

### Illinois' Adaptation

Portfolio management of public/private sector partnerships, projects, programs and initiatives is administered by the Illinois Terrorism Task Force/Private Sector Committee to meet strategic business objectives for homeland security in Illinois. This committee was convened to form ongoing dialogue/partnerships between private sector entities and Illinois' Homeland Security agencies through these types of actions.

As portfolio management body, the Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF) with funding provided through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), established the Private Sector Alliance Project (PSAP) as an initiative in this portfolio. The Project is actively engaging public/private sector representation to promote a culture of information sharing, preparedness and partnership. The Project is first preventative in functionality as well as supportive in preparedness and response components.

The Private Sector Alliance Project is comprised of two mutually sustaining programs: (1) Infrastructure Security Awareness and (2) Mutual Aid Response Network. Each program addresses perspectives of partnership-building to seek private sector awareness and participation to further build on a foundation for mutual exchange of information and assistance.

## Critical Components

The business needs and project objectives for the Private Sector Alliance Project include effective and efficient methodologies that emphasize key strategic priorities. The business needs are met by establishing private/public partnerships that require co-operative, multi-party participation. The project objectives are met by continued programmatic outreach to engage more members from an array of sectors and disciplines.

### ISA

The Infrastructure Security Awareness (ISA) program has evolved from its outset in mission, structure, communications and membership. The initial design to address the need to improve the resilience of Illinois' fight against terrorism has expanded to also include "all crimes" activity and "all hazards" preparedness/response. Using community policing initiatives, strategies and tactics at its foundation, the ISA program looks to corporate security professionals as a primary keystone for the detection and prevention of suspicious activities associated with terrorism and other criminal activities.

The gateway for these information sharing partnerships is the "fusion center concept" that has advanced in states and regions across the country. Some fusion centers have emerged from the remnants of "Pre-9/11" law enforcement intelligence bureaus; others birthed from the necessity to share

intelligence within the three tiers of government and beyond.

Fusion centers are a working solution for the three tiers of government to collect, analyze and disseminate actionable information with their partners. In Illinois, the Statewide Terrorism and Intelligence Center (ST&IC) is the Department of Homeland Security acknowledged fusion center for the state.

Private security directors, managers and supervisors who are involved in the operation of critical infrastructures or other commercial businesses with critical assets are encouraged to participate in this meaningful information sharing forum. Interested private sector representatives complete background information through a vetted application process. The communications tool for access to other members as well as Illinois' fusion center is the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN). Members can exchange critical "responsibility to inform" as well as information obtained within the corporate security community. Information housed on this Internet portal is organized by the following categories: alerts, calendar of events/anniversaries, document library, situational awareness and training calendar. Topical information can be posted, requested, reported, viewed and shared.

Also, sector-specific Terrorism Research Specialists and Criminal Intelligence Analysts stand ready at the fusion center to research and analyze submitted relevant information for sharing in a For Official Use Only (FOUO) environment. Types of information and intelligence products include: a) sector-specific threat assessments and trend analyses; b) intelligence requirements regarding topic-specific materials; c) daily briefings/daily intelligence notes to include significant incidents

within the last 24 hours; d) major events notifications/threats; e) all hazard reports reference critical incidents/natural disasters; f) on-scene analytical support for major incidents/events; g) conduit between the private sector operational centers and ST&IC; h) actionable alerts and warnings; and h) routine requests/inquiries.

Additional avenues to garner and harvest information include: (a) ST&IC -sponsored monthly Webinar intelligence briefings where members sign-on in the comfort of their respective offices to participate and (b) a yearly conference to discuss supplementary requirements and needs of the private sector from its public sector partners from a collaborative environment.

## MARN

The Mutual Aid Response Network (MARN) program through critical response components of Illinois government are in the early stages to unite with private sector entities for a deployment clearinghouse of resources needed during activation of the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) response and recovery activities. MARN is designed to act as a force multiplier between the private sector and law enforcement /public safety to mitigate the impact of critical incidents, including natural disasters and acts of terrorism. Everyone benefits when a community is restored after an incident and fully functional.

The clearinghouse will contain resources available from the private sector through Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)/applications and include reimbursement and terms of use of equipment. Resources include facilities, equipment, transportation, supplies, and human expertise/skills. These resources will supplement those gleaned at the operational center through government outreach. Also, the government will bring to bear those resources such as state responders, police

powers and shared information to strike a balance of equal yet contrasting roles in this partnership. The MARN program emphasizes proactive preparedness through this clearinghouse of existing resources.

The scope of the MARN program can potentially reach numerous government agencies, hundreds of private sector companies and consortiums of numerous localized initiatives through these preparedness tentacles.

## Future Outlook

Other initiatives in the Private Sector Alliance portfolio include: (a) private sector seat on the SEOC; (b) private sector dedicated analysts; (c) credentialed response during times of crisis/incident of private officials in their communities and (d) homeland security - private sector edifying outreach.

(a) - Representation at the SEOC during activation is a novel initiative where the private sector will serve as another “agency” at the table to provide assistance and resources from their constituents. These individuals will obtain training in all the required emergency management curriculums prior to actual participation at the activated center during times of incident. Initial selection from the private sector will also require the individuals to live within one hour of Springfield, IL for rapid deployment/response. The central Illinois chapter of the American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS) International is recruiting individuals to serve at the SEOC.

(b) - A pilot enterprise evolved between ASIS International and Illinois’ ST&IC to fund salaries of intelligence analysts committed to serving the intelligence information requirements of the private sector. The “Shared Intelligence Resource (SIR) Program” engages ASIS membership to donate tax

deductible monies through the ASIS Foundation to fund the salaries of contractual analysts. These analysts will be part of the ST&IC family in a 24/7 environment to enhance information sharing, communications and resource deployment with the private sector. Through their daily research and analysis, relevant information will be disseminated to the private sector for awareness, preparedness and response-to-inquiries purposes. The SIR pilot enterprise could be adopted by other fusion centers across the country in collaboration with their private sector partners.

(c) - Private sector entities are engaged to offer assistance to their colleague companies during times of incident/crisis to restore infrastructures as promptly as feasible. There are several grass root initiatives in Illinois where private/public sector agencies are establishing joint critical incident protocols for preparedness, response and recovery. It is essential that all partners effectively provide resources necessary to rebuild functionality and normalcy within the community. Private sector personnel will need credentialing for authorized admittance at these scenes. The costs associated with credentialing Private Sector Alliance Project members will be addressed with committee funds.

(d) - The Illinois Terrorism Task Force through public service actions and presentations at private sector workshops, conferences and trade shows will inform and reinforce homeland security activities in Illinois. These forums are an opportune time for updating and sharing information with the private sector regarding Illinois' diverse methodologies for homeland security. This exposure to the various Task Force programs and initiatives may create more opportunities for partnership with private sector agencies.

## Concluding Remarks

**Effective marketing strategies are imperative for continued outreach with private sector entities. Government does not necessarily practice a proactive approach for solicitation and participation in their programs. Illinois recognizes the need to promote and provide prudent advantages why engagement by the private sector is vital to the overall well-being for homeland security effectiveness. This Project and the inclusive, developing initiatives are examples of this vested effectiveness for communications, information and resource sharing.**